



NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY
WAKA KOTAHI

New Zealand Transport Agency

Jim Furneaux

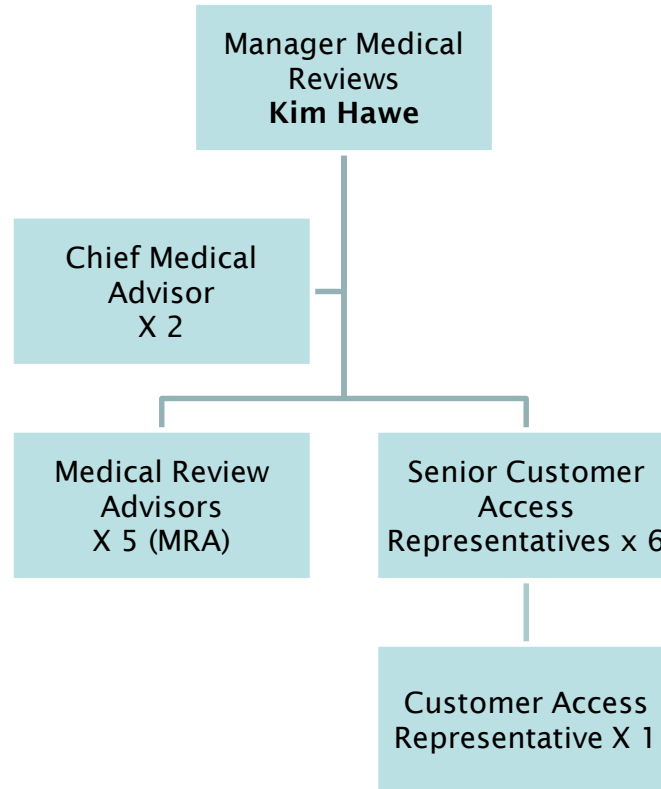
Principal Advisor Driver & Operator / Motorcycle Safety

Operational Standards & Guidelines

Customer Design & Delivery Group

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Medical Review Team



Role of Medical Team

In the interest of road safety for the licence holder and other road users, we

- Assess whether a licence holders medical condition could adversely affect their ability to safely control a motor vehicle.
- **Gather appropriate information required to make a defensible decision.**
- Take appropriate action on the driver licence – either clear for continued driving, revoke the licence, or impose limitations on driving.

Medical Practitioner definition

Land Transport Act 1998

- A ***health practitioner*** who is, or is deemed to be, registered with the Medical Council of New Zealand continued by section 114(1)(a) of the *Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003* as a practitioner of the profession of medicine
- *health practitioner* has the same meaning as in section 5 of the *Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003*



Medical Practitioners' Responsibilities

Medical Practitioners cannot assume the Driver Licencing system will pick up individuals who are unfit to drive, so it is important you consider medical fitness to drive in your everyday dealings with patients, not just when someone wants a medical or eyesight certificate for driver licensing purposes.

Except for older drivers, most drivers are issued licences for 10 years. For those who develop some type of medical conditions, this is ample time for their condition to deteriorate to a point where they are unfit to drive.

Medical Practitioners' Responsibilities 2

Section 18 of the Land Transport Act 1998

Medical practitioners must advise NZTA if a person has been advised not to drive but is likely to do so.

Section 19 of the Land Transport Act 1998

The person in charge of the hospital must notify NZTA if a licence holder becomes subject to a compulsory inpatient treatment order.

Medical Practitioners' Responsibilities 3

- Inform patient they are unfit to drive and the reasons for this
- If the individual accepts they are unfit to drive and advises they will not drive, then no further action is required.
- If the individual does not accept the advice and is likely to continue to drive, advise the agency (Section 18 of the Land Transport Act 1998) in writing or via email

Medical aspects of fitness to drive available on-line

<http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/medical-aspects/>



Special medical examinations

Clauses 40 & 41 Driver Licensing Rule

The Agency may require persons to undergo a medical examination if it considers that there are reasonable grounds to require the person to undergo a medical examination in the interests of public safety.

Must be carried out by a medical practitioner, a optometrist, or an occupational therapist, having regard to the document issued by the Agency entitled Medical Aspects of Fitness to Drive: A Guide for Medical Practitioners.

What is changing?

From 8 November 2018

- health practitioners
- working within their scopes of practice
- will be able to carry out a fitness to drive assessment and issue the appropriate medical certificate.



What roles are included as *health practitioners*?

For the purpose of *Medical Aspects of Fitness to Drive* health practitioners are:

- medical practitioners (GPs, medical specialists, physicians),
- optometrists,
- occupational therapists,
- nurse practitioners,
- registered nurses.



Scope of practice defined

Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003.

- (a) means any health service that forms part of a health profession and that is for the time being described under section 11; and
- (b) in relation to a health practitioner of that profession, means 1 or more of such health services that the practitioner is, under an authorisation granted under section 21, permitted to perform, subject to any conditions for the time being imposed by the responsible authority

Section 8 HPCA Act

Health practitioners must not practise outside scope of practice

- Every health practitioner who practises the profession in respect of which he or she is registered must have a current practising certificate issued by the responsible authority.
- No health practitioner may perform a health service that forms part of a scope of practice of the profession in respect of which he or she is registered unless he or she—
 - a) is permitted to perform that service by his or her scope of practice; and
 - b) performs that service in accordance with any conditions stated in his or her scope of practice.



Contact Details

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Questions??

